



President's Midweek Message

Free State PTA Mission: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.



October 5, 2021

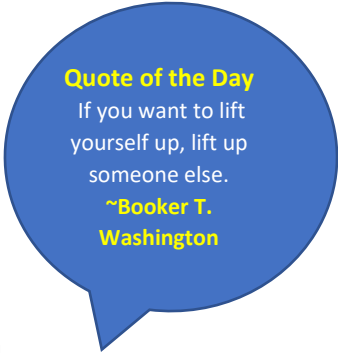
Hello PTA Family, Friends and Supporters,



SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Can you believe it is already October? Your committees are getting to work. Thank you for your calls, emails, and Back-to-School Facebook submissions. Keep them coming. School is out for Columbus Day on October 11 but take time to learn about [Indigenous Peoples' Day](#).

As the school year is underway and officers are in training, planning, and learning, please develop your transition or procedural guides that helps your successor. Keep the end in mind for when your term ends and make the transition as easy as possible with contact information, protocols, documents, and best practices. Templates are available via National PTA and what the President uses at Free State PTA. Use or modify if desired. [School Logo Guidelines](#), [FSPTA President's Committee Report](#), [FSPTA President's Director's Report](#).



Quote of the Day
If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.
~Booker T. Washington

Special Education



Friday, Oct. 1 marked the date when the majority bills that passed during the 2021 Legislative Session became law. While there may be several bills of interest, I bring your attention to HB 714 Special Education - Learning Continuity Plan – Requirement. This bill requires an individualized education program (IEP) to include a learning continuity plan to be implemented during emergency conditions, to ensure that the IEP is proceeding appropriately. For more information read the [Fiscal and Policy Note for House Bill 714](#).



Reminder – View some [Financial Reminders](#) on what to submit to the IRS, Maryland or National PTA. **National PTA School of Excellence** – The deadline for enrollment is Oct. 15. Read about it [here](#). **Health and Safety** - [HB 1119 Public Health - Sickle Cell Trait - Public Awareness \(Journey's Law\)](#) We close out September with it being [National Sickle Cell Awareness Month](#) and we open October with [Filipino American History Month](#).

Reflections – The National PTA Programs, Reflections, is in full swing and we are ready to provide guidance. The 2021–2022 [Reflections](#) theme is *I Will Change the World By....* Please contact the Free State PTA point of contact, Traci Tatum at tracitatum41@gmail.com. **In promotion of your great ideas and to help encourage local unit participation, please send photos of your REFLECTIONS display at your school to president.fsptamd@gmail.com for posting on @FreeStatePTA for our fellow constituent units to see.**



Free State PTA is the official state constituent congress of National PTA® in Maryland. Visit the Free State PTA website at fspta.org.

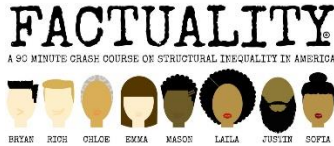


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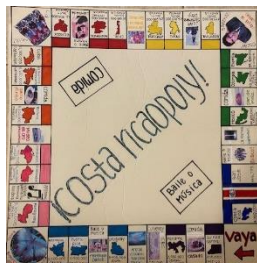


Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) – Are you looking for an event to help



promote DEI? Consider Factuality, an interactive game that brings awareness to structural inequality in America especially as it relates to race, sex, religion, ability, income, and preferences. The creator, Natalie Gillard,

facilitates the game and has administered it in several educational institutions and companies within the USA. She does fabulous connecting the experience to kids, parents, and the community at large. If interested view the website <https://www.factualitythegame.com/>. If inspired, connect with your community or even two more PTAs to sponsor an event for your families and teachers.



Idea for a School Activity – Hispanic Heritage Month ends on Friday, Oct. 15. In commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month, consider working with your school to promote student-centered event to celebrate the culture of Hispanics and Latin Americans. Consider a culminating celebration by making your own “Monopoly” board. Students who take Spanish Class or know Spanish can do it in Spanish. You can obtain "[Monopoly](#)" [Board Guidelines](#) here. Be sure to

work with school administration on where to take delivery as well as post boards. Be sure to set a deadline range too.

Educational and Cultural References for National Hispanic Heritage Month

- [Famous Hispanic Scholars, Teachers, and Educators](#)
- [Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month in School](#)
- [Latino Leaders Magazine](#)
- [Notable Hispanic Americans](#)
- [Hispanic Heritage Awards](#)
- [Spotlight on Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor](#)



What Does It Mean?

- Ex-officio is a Latin term meaning “by virtue of office or position”. Presidents serve as ex-officio members of all committees but do not count toward counting quorum or whether one is present. The president has the same rights as the other committee members but is not obligated to attend meetings of the committee. Additionally, presidents have the right to make motions, to speak in debate and to vote on all questions. However, presidents should remain impartial.

Quick Fact

- The 2021-2022 [Maryland Teacher of the Year](#) will be announced on October 7.

CALL US ANYTIME

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